

July 28, 2010

Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Social Security at 75 Years

Honorable Members of the Committee:

I write to you today as a retired California educator who is punitively affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision. I started my 35 year secondary teaching and coaching career in 1969 BEFORE the offsets were placed into law. I had been told by my former teachers and coaches to "be sure" to pick up 40 Social Security credits during my teaching career by working "outside" my STRS retirement program. Like a good student I, followed my mentor's advice. Little did I know that 43 years later when I begin my Social Security distributions (age 66), I will be punitively hurt by WEP!

What IS egregious to me is the fact that at NO time in my 35 year career in education was I warned, or advised that any offsets existed! No professional organization, the Social Security Administration or anyone EVER notified me to STOP funding Social Security credits. How duplicitous is that? Yet, 14 years into my career, the offsets were placed into law and lurked in the shadows until my retirement.

Finally in January, 2005 (I retired in June of 2005) all future educators (and I all assume public service employees) were required to acknowledge the fact that the offsets existed and those who chose to continue would have to sign off on their understanding of their future reduced Social Security distributions. Like all others affected by the WEP, I EARNED my teaching pension and my Social Security distributions by honest effort. I do NOT want anything I don't deserve.

You have the power to right these ill conceived laws. You have boxcars of testimony from people over decades of time who have been hurt after honorable service in the public sector.

I ask you to thoroughly examine every aspect of the offsets and do the right thing for those who have given their all for the public good. We are hard-working, law abiding citizens who should not be placed in financial jeopardy at the end of our careers. Repeal the WEP/GPO!

Respectfully,

Mark Reischling

CA

